

C1
separately produced half-shells, one of said half-shells having an inner contour, said half-shells being latched to one another using a latching device at a distance from one another forming a free gap between said half-shells, said heat-expansible element being retained in said free gap between said half-shells.

Sub D1
C2
Claim 3 (twice amended). The configuration according to claim 2, wherein said latching device comprises a mushroom-shaped latching element disposed on one of said half-shells and a latching cylinder disposed on another one of said half-shells.

Sub D2
C3¹¹²
Claim 5 (thrice amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said two half-shells are first and second half-shells, said first half-shell having said inner contour, said second half-shell having a region corresponding to said inner contour, said latching device comprising (a latching opening) and (a latching web) (said latching opening being disposed within said inner contour of said first half-shell and said latching web being disposed in said region of said second half-shell).

Sub E2
Claim 6 (amended). The configuration according to claim 2, wherein said two half-shells are first and second half-shells, said latching device being formed of a latching cylinder and of a mushroom-shaped latching element, said latching cylinder

C³
being disposed on said first half-shell and said mushroom-shaped latching element being integrally formed on said second half-shell.

C⁴
Claim 8 (thrice amended). The configuration according to claim 2, wherein said latching device is integrally formed on said inner surfaces of said half-shells.

Sub
D²
C⁵
Claim 11 (twice amended). A configuration for separating cavities for sealing or sound-proofing, comprising:
a heat-expansible element; and
a retaining device to be positioned in a cross-sectional region of a cavity, said retaining device having two half-shells being fixated to one another with a free gap between said two half-shells, and said heat-expansible element being retained in said free gap between said two half-shells.

Sub
D³
Claim 12 (twice amended). The configuration according to claim 11, wherein one of said two half-shells has an inner contour around which said heat-expansible element is retained.

Enter The following New Claims:

Sub D3
C^{to}
-- 13. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said free gap is bounded inwardly by said inner contour and said heat-expansible element is disposed around said inner contour.

Sub E2
14. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said heat-expansible element has a shape corresponding substantially to said free gap formed by said latched half-shells. --
